

SPECIAL EVENTS & PARK RENTALS



The Farmers Branch Historical Park hosts several special events throughout the year, and is also available to rent for private events. For a complete listing of events and for information on park rentals, visit www.fbhistoricalpark.com

HOURS

WEEKDAYS 8 AM - 6 PM
WEEKENDS 12 PM - 6 PM

CLOSED

EASTER, THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS EVE,
CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEARS DAY

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FARMERS BRANCH
Historical Park

FBHISTORICALPARK.COM

TRAIN DEPOT • 1877



The Dallas and Wichita Railroad built the Farmers Branch Depot at the intersection of Valley View and Denton Drive around 1877. After several years of mismanagement, the Missouri-Kansas-Texas (MKT) Railroad purchased the line and took over the Depot. By 1924, the rail line had been electrified by the Interurban Railway, which ran daily trains between Waco and Denton. Between 1924 and 1931, up to 50 trains a day would transport commuters across north and central Texas.

The Depot was relocated to the Historical Park and restored in 1985. In 1997 an original 1890s wooden caboose was placed next to the Depot and restored to MKT Railroad colors.

GENERAL STORE • 1920



General Stores were the center of commerce in a small town like Farmers Branch. Stores carried a wide variety of goods including food, hardware, clothing and even medicine. The General Store in the Historical Park is modeled after several stores that existed in Farmers Branch in 1927, and the exhibits are filled with replicas of items that would have been for sale during that era.

GAS STATION • 1936

One of the first gas stations in Farmers Branch was a Texaco Gas Station. In 2000, the Historical Park built a gas station structure to house the original 1936 Glad Acres truck, which was used on the Glad Acres horse ranch, current day Valley View Road and Marsh Lane, in Farmers Branch.



DODSON HOUSE • 1937

In 1937, William and Maude Dodson built this modest home near Farmers Branch creek. The home became a frequent location for political discussion that eventually led to the incorporation of the City in 1946. Mr. Dodson would become the City's first Mayor and would serve until 1948. Maude Dodson continued to live in her home until 1983.

The Dodson House is available for special event rentals and meetings. Inquire with Historical Park staff for more information.



FARMERS BRANCH HISTORICAL PARK

TAKE A WALK BACK IN TIME



FBHISTORICALPARK.COM

WELCOME

Welcome to the Farmers Branch Historical Park. The Historical Park was created to collect, preserve and interpret the history of the United States and Texas with an emphasis on Peters Colony and Farmers Branch. We are delighted that you are taking the time to learn about our rich history.

PARK MAP

1

Museum Store

2

Dodson House

3

Grill House

4

Old Church

5

Schoolhouse

6

Restrooms

7

Queen Ann Victorian Cottage

8

Gazebo

9

MKT Caboose

10

Farmers Branch Depot

11

Texaco Service Station

12

General Store

13

Log Culture House

14

Gilbert House

15

McKee Addition

16

Playhouse

LOG CULTURE • 1840s



The log structures at the Historical Park represent a pioneer homestead of the 1840s, including a log house and one barn that were originally located near Pilot Point, Texas. A replica of the 1840s Peters Colony Land Grant Office was added to the Log Culture Area in 2002.

GILBERT HOUSE • 1856

Built in 1856, the Gilbert House is the oldest structure still on its original foundation in Dallas County. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as being named a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, the Gilbert House is the cornerstone of the Farmers Branch Historical Park.



The house consists of two-foot thick limestone walls, chestnut plank floors, and native Texas furniture. It is architecturally referred to as a dogtrot style home, recognized by a large open hallway in the middle of the house.

Dr. Gilbert and his wife Julia moved to Farmers Branch in 1854 and the couple lived with nearby neighbor Isaac Webb until their house was finished in 1856.

The stately trees that surround the Gilbert House today were in place when the house was built, and are unique in that large Post Oaks do not typically grow in the Blackland Prairie.

QUEEN ANNE • 1885



The Queen Anne Victorian Cottage is easily recognized with crossed gables, turrets or cupolas, wrap around porches and porticos. The house, built around 1885 for the Bassinger family in Gainesville, was relocated to the Historical Park in 1992.

OLD CHURCH • 1890s



In 1845, Issac B. Webb founded the first church in Dallas County in Farmers Branch. The Old Church in the Historical Park represents a typical north Texas church during the end of the 19th century. It was built during the 1890s in Renner, Texas and was relocated to the Historical Park in 1985.

SCHOOL HOUSE • 1900



Farmers Branch holds claim to the first organized schools in Dallas County. The first classes were held in 1846 in the Methodist Church located on Isaac Webb’s property. The School in the Historical Park was built in 1900 near the intersection of Valley View and Dennis Lane, about a mile or so from its present location. Originally, the building was made up of 3 parts - two large rooms and a porch. When the brick school house was built in Farmers Branch around 1915, the old school was taken apart and parceled out. In 1985, the last remaining room was brought to the Historical Park and restored to represent a typical North Texas one-room school.

FRIENDS

OF THE FARMERS BRANCH HISTORICAL PARK

The Friends of the Farmers Branch Historical Park provide financial and physical assistance to the Historical Park to help the Historical Park achieve it’s mission.

JOIN US

Friends Membership Levels

JUNIOR	\$10
PIONEER	\$25
AGENT	\$100
LIFETIME/FAMILY	\$500

VOLUNTEER

The Historical Park has an active and growing volunteer program currently seeking new members. Please contact us to find out how you can pitch in!

DONATE

Many of the artifcats of the Historical Park are obtained by the generous contributions of people like you. If you are interested in making a donation to the Historical Park please contact us.

TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE ABOUT BECOMING A FRIEND,
VOLUNTEERING OR DONATING, PLEASE CONTACT

FARMERS BRANCH HISTORICAL PARK

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